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The Legacy of the Mission:
 "To Right Wrong. To do Justice"

President's Johnson's "*We Shall Overcome Speech*" before the Special Session of the Congress and the assembled Supreme Court of the United States was a day of transformation of voting as a legislative grace to that of a verification of voting as a right of the People

That moment in time marked a pinnacle in the freedoms of Americans and mankind. The President provided executive authority to the long standing state statutes and practices which prevented racial minorities from the representation in the American government in the speech, and introduced legislation that would "strike down all restrictions in Federal, State and local elections"

That hour in time marked that opportunity would be extended to all segments of the American society.

And in those hours there was built the foundation of the Constitutional promise: that equal was equal upon each and all citizens, whether it was in California, or Maine or Texas or Illinois or any of the other states and territories of the United States.

Unfortunately, several confederate statutes lay hidden in suspension behind the statutes, words and practices of state laws while the debate upon the precision of the bill and of federal authority continued.

When the bill finally did pass, court challenges arose and persisted the term of President Johnson. It was a sad day that passed when the executive authority and strength behind the words of legislation transferred to the hands of others as several of the devices persisted.

One which came back to regular (pre-1965) practice is in Illinois' election code, now found at Illinois 5-10. It used to be Chapter 46 of the Illinois statutes, and it is a bit ironic that more time was spent toward revising the organization of the statutes than the internals of the statutes. Originally enacted in 1871, state code provides for a "citizen challenge" for statutory provisions including repeated certifications, punctuations, legibility, confusion, along with proper candidate statements and qualified voters being submitted to election authority for (equal) placement upon ballots. It was enacted to evade the state's prohibition of Amendment XV and the first civil rights bill. It did so by allowing a private citizen challenge a candidacy for 'qualified voters' and sufficiency. These challenges were most visible carried out along racial lines, but were as much used by an incumbency to eliminate opposition before an election. (This practice of contouring the ballot and gaining election without or by nominal opposition is a practice that extends beyond the party lines of the established political parties though it is not a practice adopted by all established candidates. It has however taken new forms where established political organizations hire infiltrators to manufacture signatures for the opposition, thus providing for the disqualification of the opposition based upon sustainable challenge: "the signature submitted is fraudulent")



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